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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CJIS) CENTRAL REPOSITORY

Criminal Procedure Article, §§ 10-201—10-234<sup>1</sup>

**Background.** CJIS Central Repository was established in 1977 as a unit of the Maryland State Police and was transferred to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services by Chapter 122 of the Acts of 1988. The Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS) was initiated May 1, 1991.

**Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)** includes 22 reportable events. Criminal justice agencies, including the courts, are required to report CHRI to the Central Repository. The compilation of “reportable events” that are linked to an individual by means of fingerprints is called the “RAP” Sheet (Report of Arrest and Prosecution).

**Timeframes for Reporting.** The Criminal Procedure Article, § 10-214(b) requires that:

- (1) the data pertaining to an arrest or the issuance of an arrest warrant shall be reported within 72 hours after the earlier of the arrest or the issuance of the arrest warrant;
- (2) the data pertaining to the release of a person after an arrest without the filing of a charge shall be reported within 30 days after the person is released; and
- (3) the data pertaining to any other reportable event shall be reported within 60 days after the reportable event occurs.

**Safeguards.** The Criminal Procedure Article, §§ 10-222—10-227 enables individuals to review and challenge the accuracy of their criminal history records. CJIS Central Repository must also perform periodic audits to ensure that its records are maintained in a timely, complete, and accurate manner. To ensure positive identification, CJIS Central Repository is a fingerprint supported record system.

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<sup>1</sup>Effective October 1, 2001; formerly Article 27, §§ 742—755.

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## REPORTABLE EVENTS

Criminal Procedure Article, § 10-215

- (1) the issuance or withdrawal of an arrest warrant;
- (2) an arrest;
- (3) the release of a person after arrest without the filing of a charge;
- (4) the filing of a charging document;
- (5) a release pending trial or an appeal;
- (6) a commitment to an institution of pretrial detention;
- (7) the dismissal of an indictment or criminal information;
- (8) a nolle prosequi;
- (9) the marking of a charge “stet” on the docket;
- (10) an acquittal, conviction, verdict of not criminally responsible, or any other disposition of a case at or following trial, including a finding of probation before judgment;
- (11) the imposition of a sentence;
- (12) a commitment to a State correctional facility or local correctional facility;
- (13) a commitment to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under § 3-105 or § 3-111 of this article as incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible;
- (14) a release from detention or confinement;
- (15) a conditional release, revocation of conditional release, or discharge of a person committed to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under § 3-105 or § 3-111 of this article as incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible;
- (16) an escape from confinement or commitment;
- (17) a pardon, reprieve, commutation of a sentence, or other change in a sentence, including a change in a sentence that a court orders;
- (18) an entry of an appeal to an appellate court;
- (19) a judgment of an appellate court;
- (20) an order of a court in a collateral proceeding that affects a person's conviction, sentence, or confinement;
- (21) an adjudication of a child as delinquent: if the child is at least 14 years old, for an act described in § 3-804(e)(1) of the Courts Article; or if the child is at least 16 years old, for an act described in § 3-804(e)(4) or (5) of the Courts Article;
- (22) the issuance or withdrawal of a writ of attachment by a juvenile court; and
- (23) any other event arising out of or occurring during the course of a criminal proceeding that the Secretary by regulation or the Court of Appeals by rule makes a reportable event.

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## THE PURPOSE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Criminal Procedure Article, § 10-203

The Maryland General Assembly established CJIS to “create and maintain an accurate and efficient criminal justice information system in the State consistent with:

- applicable federal law and regulations;
- the need of criminal justice units in the State for accurate and current criminal history record information;
- and the right of persons to be free from improper and unwarranted intrusions into their privacy.”

## USES OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION

*Criminal justice agencies* use the data maintained on the RAP Sheet to make significant decisions about criminal justice processing, including: how to prosecute and adjudicate defendants; how to sentence defendants found guilty; how to classify defendants sentenced to supervision or incarceration. These decisions have a major impact on the safety, security, and wellbeing of the general public.

*Authorized non-criminal justice agencies and individuals* may obtain criminal history records checks, as specified by statute, for employment and licensing purposes. Since the mid-1980s, fingerprint-supported criminal history records checks have been mandated by the General Assembly for a variety of non-criminal justice purposes. (The CJIS Central Repository is the sole source of official criminal history records checks in Maryland, and is the only avenue for obtaining national checks from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.) These checks range from business and professional licensing to employment in various childcare, educational, and recreational settings and continue to grow in number each year.

**OFFICIAL  
CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS  
DEPEND UPON  
FINGERPRINTS**



**The best **POSITIVE**  
identifier we have . . . .**

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor  
Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Mary Ann Saar  
Secretary  
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**Criminal History Record  
Information**

**Criminal  
Justice  
Information  
System**

**CENTRAL REPOSITORY**

A UNIT OF THE  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (ITCD)  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DPCS)